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# Advocate of Peace.

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## The Administration's Peace Plan.

The features of the Administration's peace plan, as matured to date, provide that all questions of dispute between this and another nation not capable of being settled by diplomacy shall be referred for investigation and report to an International Commission. For the purpose of drawing an expression of opinion from the powers, Secretary Bryan has suggested that this commission might consist of five persons, two of whom shall be chosen by their representative governments from within themselves respectively, two by the representative governments respectively from other governments, and a fifth to be chosen by the two governments collectively. It

is proposed that the treaties between the contracting parties shall provide that no war shall be declared or hostilities be begun until after such investigation is made and the commission's report submitted. It is proposed that the commission shall be permanent, that it shall conduct its investigation as a matter of course upon its own initiative, and that the report shall be submitted within one year from the submission of the dispute. It is not proposed to interfere with any nation's right to act independently on the subject-matter in dispute after the report is submitted.

It is now planned that there shall be a separate commission under each treaty, and that these treaties shall not take the place of arbitration treaties, but supplement them. A note elaborating more in detail the nature of these treaties is expected soon. While some months may be necessary before a treaty satisfactory to all the nations may be agreed upon, the Administration's habit of conferring frequently with the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs will reduce the delay to a minimum.

The United States, under the terms of the Administration's latest proposal, would be glad to consider the question of maintaining the status quo as to military and naval preparations during the period of investigation. If, during this period, however, danger to one of the contracting parties from a third party compels a change in military equipment such a change may be allowed through confidential communications specially provided for in the treaty. It is suggested that by some such measure the contracting parties could be protected from each other in ordinary cases, yet freedom of action be provided for in emergencies. But, as in the case of the previous proposals covering details, it is not the purpose of the Administration to impose at this time any fixed conditions. The principle of investigation is the great thing. This once accepted, the details are matters for conference and consideration.

The nations, in the order of their acceptance of the principles involved, are: Italy, Great Britain, France, Brazil, Sweden, Norway, Russia, Peru, Austria, Netherlands, Bolivia, Germany, Argentina, China, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Spain, Portugal, Belgium and Denmark.

The plan does not meet the whole situation. It does not go as far as many would like, but it has some distinct advantages over any now before us. It is concrete and, we believe, attainable. A permanent organization like unto this would grow in effectiveness with increasing experience because, once begun, the working of the details would become increasingly easier. The deliberations of the commissioners

would promote education for the governments and the governed in terms of right international behavior. The various overlapping commissions might easily be expected to assume something of the standing of a permanent court, with the difference, of course, that it would not decide cases, but report facts. Out of its practice and investigations international law would develop with a renewed vigor. But perhaps still more important, the very act of investigation itself would promote that important attitude of mind known as suspended judgment, without which there can be no justice between men or nations.

### Secretary Trueblood's Illness.

The many friends of Dr. Benjamin F. Trueblood, for twenty-one years Secretary of the American Peace Society and editor of this magazine, will regret to learn that on the 7th of June he was stricken with an attack of aphasia at his home in Falkstone Courts, Washington, D. C. The long years of uninterrupted labor and devotion to the rapidly accumulating details of the work of the American Peace Society were evidently too great a strain even for his unusually vigorous constitution. In the weeks that have elapsed he has improved steadily, and it is hoped that an extended vacation may bring back to him much of his former health and strength.

The following resolution, presented by Hon. Jackson H. Ralston at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Peace Society, Friday, June 27, was unanimously voted:

"Appreciating the fact that his many years of arduous mental and physical labor in the cause of peace have brought to Dr. Benjamin F. Trueblood, Secretary of the American Peace Society, injury to his health, and desiring to acknowledge, even in an inadequate way, the indebtedness of the peace movement as represented by this society to him,

*"Resolved,* That a leave of absence of six months, with full pay, be granted to Dr. Benjamin F. Trueblood, and that he is urged to accept this with the assurance of the heartfelt hope, on our part, that he may be speedily restored to his accustomed vigor, and may at the end of this time be able to assume his accustomed place of leadership among us."

It was voted also that the committee authorize and request Mr. Call, in the absence of Dr. Trueblood, to assume and perform the duties of the Secretary.

### Gettysburg Fifty Years After.

The Gettysburg anniversary reunion and commemoration has made a profound impression. We have personally visited that interesting field. It was an impressive experience, repeopleing that fourteen miles of battle, army against army, corps against corps, battalion against battalion, man against man. It required little imagina-

tion to fill in the main details of that mighty carnage. Seminary Ridge to the west, the death of General Reynolds, the railroad gully filled with dead, the wooded soil covered with wounded and dying, the retreat through the village at twilight, the formation on Cemetery Ridge, and the morning and the evening were the first day. The fierce Confederate onslaught at Culp's Hill on the one hand and at Round Top on the other; the terrible slaughter in the peach orchard, and another day passed. An early artillery duel, Pickett's Brigade marching across death's plain to defeat and rout at the Bloody Angle, one of the world's great battles is over, and a wild third of July is ended. There is a fourth, a sad and silent fourth, and in the night of it Lee's great army, what is left, retreats toward the south through the dark and the rain.

Those were awesome days. Men there poured forth their last full measure of devotion as they understood devotion. We would belittle neither their valor nor their heroism. Bravery there was on both sides, God knows, a plenty.

It has seemed a bit strange to us, however, that in all the press reports we have failed to note any emphasis upon the unutterable sadness of that useless slaughter of brave young men. We find no attempt to picture what this nation might have been had that flower of American manhood been spared. We have heard no note of regret that the battle was thought to be necessary. We find no tendency to question the "glory" of that scene. No voice recalls the smell of decaying flesh, the death shriek of the horses, the picture of carrion birds picking out the eyes of many a mother's dead. No one has thought to doubt the ethics of Armistead's shout on that fateful day, with hat on sword and about to die, "Give them the cold steel, boys!" We find little reference to the women of that day, the brave souls who fought out the war at the broken hearth, the supporters of families, the makers of supplies, the angels of mercy. Many a chaplain buried more women dead of broken hearts than soldiers on the field of battle. We have no doubt that, as in the case of the Boer war, four times as many women and children as men died North and South because of Gettysburg. And who can do justice to those women of the border States? Why does no one dare to say that that battle, like all battles, was but a hideous survival of savagery? Why are we so afraid of being called cowardly and sentimental? Why do clergymen, teachers of Christ, accept the unthinking judgment of the populace and forget their beatitudes? Why does the press find more "news value" in those deeds of killing than in any modern self-effacing bravery? No one, so far as we know, has arisen to speak of the futile folly of behaving abominably ourselves that others may be punished for behaving abominably. We seem to forget that military